

## Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: AL/MS/FL

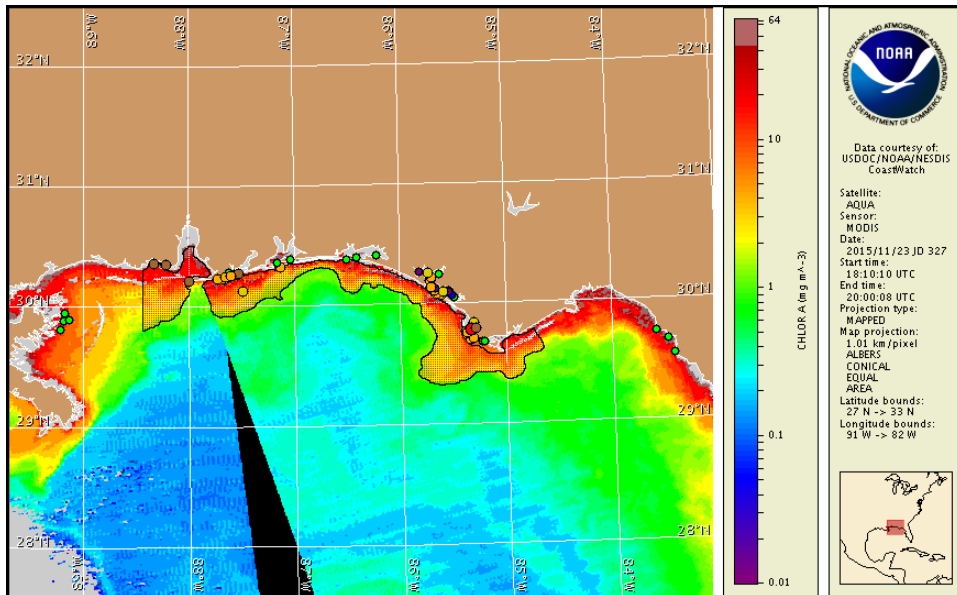
Wednesday, 25 November 2015

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, November 23, 2015



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from November 15 to 24: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs\\_bulletin\\_guide.pdf](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf)

Detailed sample information for Florida can be obtained through FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute at:

<http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus>

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit at: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html>

## Conditions Report

Not present to high concentrations of *Karenia brevis* (commonly known as Florida red tide) are present along- and offshore Mobile and Baldwin counties in Alabama and portions of northwest Florida from Escambia to Gulf counties. *K. brevis* concentrations are patchy in nature and levels of respiratory irritation will vary locally based upon nearby bloom concentrations, ocean currents, and wind speed and direction. The highest level of potential respiratory irritation forecast for alongshore Alabama and northwest Florida Wednesday, November 25 to Monday, November 30 is listed below:

**County Region: Forecast (Duration)**

**Mobile County:** Low (W-M)

**Baldwin County:** Very Low (W-F) Moderate (Sa-M)

**Baldwin County, bay regions-Perdido Bay area:** Low (W-M)

**Escambia County:** Very Low (W-Sa) Moderate (Su-M)

**Santa Rosa County:** Very Low (W-Sa) Moderate (Su-M)

**Okaloosa County:** Very Low (W-Sa) Moderate (Su-M)

**Okaloosa County, bay regions:** Very Low (W-M)

**Walton County:** Very Low (W-M)

**Bay County:** Very Low (W-M)

**Bay County, bay regions:** High (W) Moderate (Th-M)

**Gulf County:** Very Low (W-M)

**Gulf County, west bay regions-St. Joseph Bay area:** High (W-M)

**All Other NWFL County Regions:** None expected (W-M)

**SWFL County Regions:** Visit <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/#swfl>

Check [http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach\\_conditions.html](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html) for recent, local observations. Health information, from the Florida Department of Health and other agencies, is available at [http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab\\_health\\_info.html](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_health_info.html). Dead fish were reported in Escambia County.

## Analysis

Recent water samples collected from Alabama and northwest Florida continued to indicate the presence of *Karenia brevis* alongshore from Mobile County, Alabama to Gulf County, Florida.

In northwest Florida, recent samples indicate up to 'high' concentrations of *K. brevis* in St. Joseph Bay in Gulf County and up to 'medium' concentrations in bay regions of Bay County (FWRI; 11/18-23). In Alabama, recent samples indicate up to 'medium' concentrations of *K. brevis* alongshore Gulf State Park in Baldwin County (ADPH; 11/21-23). No new samples have been received from Louisiana; however, the most recent samples (Nov. 19) indicated that *K. brevis* was not present alongshore Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard parishes (FDA). Detailed sample information and a summary of impacts can be obtained through FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute at:

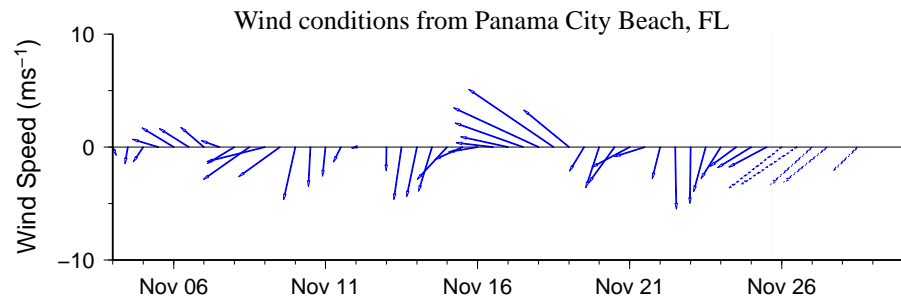
<http://myfwc.com/redtidestatus>.

In recent ensemble imagery (MODIS Aqua, 11/23), patches of elevated to very high chlorophyll (2 to >20  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) with the optical characteristics of *K. brevis* are visible along- and offshore from Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana eastward to Gulf County, Florida.

Additional sampling alongshore and in the bay regions of Louisiana and Mississippi, is recommended to determine the extent of *K. brevis* concentrations in these regions.

Winds forecast today through Monday may promote the continued westward transport of *K. brevis* concentrations in Alabama and northwest Florida and may include the transport of *K. brevis* into Mississippi and Louisiana.

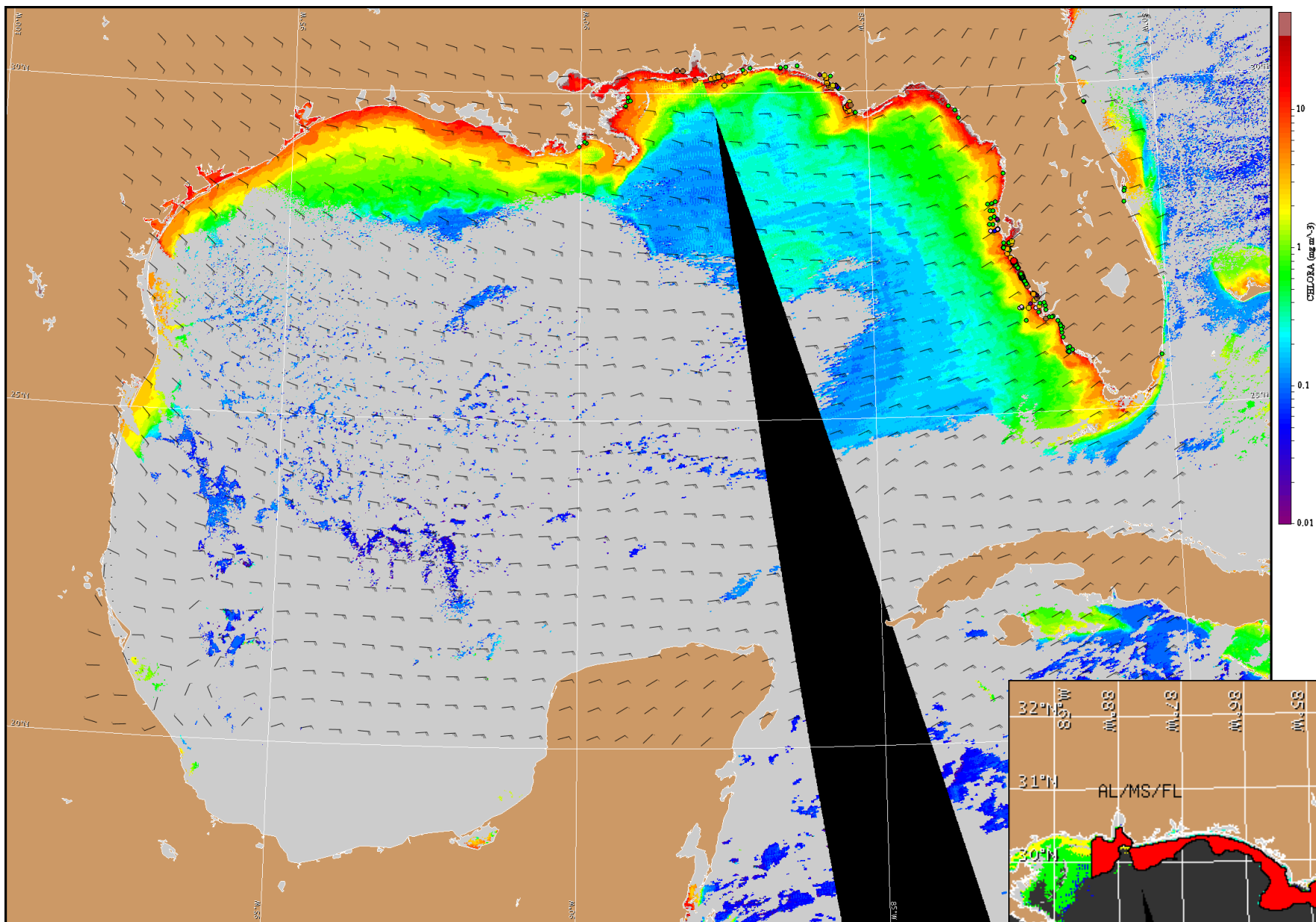
Urizar, Davis



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

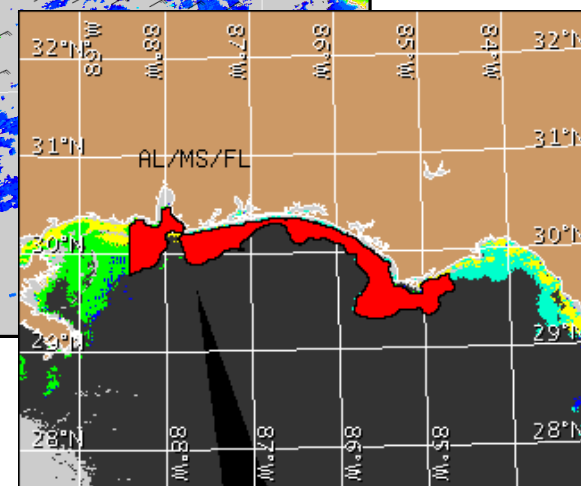
## Wind Analysis

**Escambia to Taylor counties:** Northeasterly to easterly winds (10-25 kn, 5-13 m/s) today through Sunday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for November 26, 2015 12Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from November 15 to 24: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas with *K. brevis* optical characteristics shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).